## REMARKS

Entry and consideration of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings as failing to show features recited in the claims. In response to this objection, Applicants state that the first male and female screw threads on the outer tubular wall surface are shown as elements 547 and 24, respectively, in Figure 19; the second female and male screw thread segments of the grip member are shown as elements 25 and 415, respectively, in Figure 20; and the third female screw thread segment in the engaging recess and the male screw thread segments on the anchoring portion are shown as elements 68 and 414, respectively, also in Figure 20. Applicants believe that this objection of the Examiner has now been overcome.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,211,628 (Marshall). This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the Applicants' following remarks in this regard.

Independent Claim 1 recites a number of structural elements that are not described or suggested by Marshall. For example, Claim 1 recites "a tubular needle seat including ... an anchoring portion extending from said surrounding grip portion in the longitudinal direction and away from said hub portion." Marshall does not show or describe an anchoring portion of the needle seat that extends longitudinally away from the needle seat hub. Additionally, Marshall does not show or describe "a grip member ... being configured to provide a resisting force that holds said surrounding gripped portion in position so as to prevent movement of said surrounding gripped portion ... during a piercing action of said needle cannula ..., and that permits disengagement of said surrounding gripped portion ... when said gripped member is subjected to a first external force" that operates in cooperation with "a plunger ... including ... a coupling rod including ... a central anchored area that is engageable with said anchoring portion [of the needle seat] ... and a triggering member disposed to prevent ... retaining of said thrust end [of the coupling rod] in response to a second external force, thereby permitting said coupling rod to be biased toward the retracted position." These elements are important to the operation of the present disclosure, which provides a controlled

two-step process for enabling retraction of the needle or cannula; that is, pressure on the plunger following delivery of the injection causes the coupling rod to engage the anchoring portion of the needle seat and the grip member to be pushed forward to disengage from the surrounding grip portion of the needle seat. Continued pressure on the plunger causes the biasing spring to disengage from its retaining groove so that the spring pressure causes the coupling rod, needle seat anchoring portion, and cannula to be retracted into the barrel of the syringe. Marshall does not describe or suggest the structure necessary to permit operation in the manner accomplished by the elements recited in Claim 1. Marshall does not disclose or suggest a needle seat grip member that is disengaged prior to the release of the spring. The structure of Marshall therefore causes a sudden, rapid retraction of the needle, while the arrangement recited in Claim 1 provides a more controlled anticipated needle retraction. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable over the cited reference Marshall. Claims 4, 5, 10, and 14 are dependent, or ultimately dependent, upon Claim 1 and are therefore believed allowable by virtue of Claim 1 being allowable.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-12, and 14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. 5,114,404 (Paxton et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the Applicants' following remarks in this regard.

As described above, Claim 1 recites a spring biased coupling rod that engages an anchoring portion of a needle seat in which continuing pressure on the plunger disengages the needle seat grip member and thereafter releases the biasing spring to permit retraction of the needle. Paxton et al. does not describe or suggest this arrangement. Paxton et al. discloses a complex ratcheting structure that involves numerous steps which require repeated, independent forces on the plunger to bring the needle into a position of use, administer the injection and retract the needle. Each step that is required in the operation of the syringe disclosed in Paxton et al. causes movement of a ratchet barrel into a new position, with a corresponding movement of the plunger that is not controllable by the user. The structure of Paxton et al. and the manner in which needle retraction is accomplished is entirely different than that recited in Claim 1. Claim 1 is therefore believed to be allowable over Paxton et al.

Claims 4, 5, 8-12, and 14 are dependent, or ultimately dependent, upon Claim 1 and are therefore believed allowable by virtue of Claim 1 being allowable.

Applicants believe that the cited references neither disclose nor suggest the claimed invention of this application, and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in light of the preceding remarks, thereby leading to allowance of all remaining claims. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone if there are any questions about this Response or other issues that may be resolved in that fashion.

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Respectfully submitted,

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